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7 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Reconnaissance Vehicle Concept Study
for Fiscal Year 1969

REFERENCE :



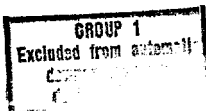
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1. Reference (a) submitted to the D/NRO, the specifics of certain general research and development activities which the D/R&D/OSA was proposing for investigation during FY 68. Item 3 of the attachment to reference (a) was an Aircraft Parametric Concept Study, and item 4 was an Advanced Aircraft Concept Investigation. In reference (b) Dr. Flax cited the ExCom decision, relative to the FY 69 budget program, to fund studies of advanced aircraft and other highly invulnerable quick-reaction reconnaissance systems. Therefore Dr. Flax requested that elements of items 3 and 4 of reference (a) be included in the plan for studies of advanced systems in FY 69.

2. In formulating the study plan requested by the D/NRO, it will be necessary to include, among other things, specific ground rules, available background data, options as appropriate and the basis for contractor selection. The purpose of this memorandum is to present some initial thoughts regarding data to be included in the study plan.

3. Specific Ground Rules - Reference (c) memorandum to OSI requested the most realistic estimate of the 1975-1980 defensive environments of the Soviet Bloc and of other appropriate areas. Hopefully, having these data available in advance of the study effort would result in the formulation of more realistic performance requirements. In this manner it is intended to avoid a repeat of the [redacted] effort wherein, subsequent to completion of the study, vulnerability

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estimated by OSI concluded the performance envelopes of the various designs could not survive in the estimated defensive environment.

Available Background Data - It is intended to make available all of the [redacted] using [redacted] data as well as the characteristics of the [redacted] OXCART and IDEALIST performance and cross-section data will also be provided as required as well as any pertinent engine technology. The intent will be to insure that this concept study will not repeat anything previously determined.

Options as Appropriate - Various options will be investigated including manned vs. unmanned, self-accelerator vs. air launched and staged vs. U.S. based. These options should be investigated from the standpoint of cost effectiveness, quick-reaction, performance impact, etc. The contractors should be encouraged to investigate not only faster and higher performance than is now available, but also consider the possible advantages of very low altitude, mixed profiles, ie, high-low-high, muffled propulsion systems, or any other "way-out" ideas. Unusual tactics, unusual configurations or both may very well be required, and, in this regard, negative constraints, unless strongly defensible, should be avoided in the basic ground rules.

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ASD/R&D/OSA, [REDACTED] (7 May 68)

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